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Ford Got Lobbyist's Secret $$

By JAMES R. POLK

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford got campaign help from a lobbyist for the American Trucking Assn. who raised $4500 through a Washington committee that kept the names of the donors secret.

The lobbyist, Harold O. Lovre, who is afounder South Dakota Congressman, refused to name the contributors. "You know very well all this is confidential," he said.

Lovre headed the "D. C. Committee for G. R. Ford" which, according to records in Michigan, pumped the $4500 into two other campaign groups for Ford in the GOP leader's hometown of Grand Rapids.

Through the Loophole

Under a loophole in the law, fund-raising groups set up in the nation's capital do not have to file public reports identifying donors.

The Associated Press disclosed yesterday that Ford failed to report $11,500 in donations from stockbrokers, an oilman, a union group, bankers and doctors last fall. The money was routed from Ford's own election committee to the GOP headquarters here before roughly the same amount was fed back to pay campaign debts. Ford said this procedure was "within the law."

In an interview, Ford also said he had known Lovre since both entered Congress as GOP freshmen in 1949.

Says Ford Didn't Know

Lovre, who served in the House until 1956, said, "The reason I did this is we came down to Congress together. He's a friend. I was going to raise some money for him.

"He didn't know a damn thing about it. He didn't want to know, either," Lovre told a reporter.

Ford said, "He asked me one time last spring, could he help in any way. I said if you want, to do it on your own."

Lovre said there were about 30 or 40 donations all told, and all were for small amounts.

Boggs Gained, Too

The so-called "D. C. committees" are a popular device among many incumbent Senators and Congressmen to raise money from special interest groups in Washington without having to list the contributors.

Ford's counterpart, House Democratic Leader Hale Boggs of Louisiana, also benefited last year from a D. C. committee set up by a lobbyist for the U. S. Cane Sugar Refiners' Assn.

The lobyist, Irvin Hoff, had said previously that about 30 men gathered at a private home one nihgt last summer to chip in whatever they wanted for Boggs' campaign.